

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Social Services	(2) MEETING DATE 7/7/2015	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Trish Avery Caldwell (805) 788-2601	
(4) SUBJECT Request to approve a FY 2015-16 renewal service contract (Clerk's File) for the Family Ties Relative Caregiver Program with Seneca Family of Services (Seneca) in the amount of \$240,838. All Districts.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board approve, and direct the Chairperson to sign, a renewal contract with Seneca Family of Services (Seneca) for the Family Ties Relative Caregiver Program for Fiscal Year 2015-16 in the amount of \$240,838.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) Realignment 2011 funds (100%)	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$240,838	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$240,838	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. ____ ) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. ____ )			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input type="checkbox"/> N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) 19001527		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5 Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input type="checkbox"/> N/A    Date: <u>7/8/15</u> _____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Morgan Torell			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts			

# County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Social Services/Trish Avery Caldwell  
(805) 788-2601

DATE: 7/7/2015

SUBJECT: Request to approve a FY 2015-16 renewal service contract (Clerk's File) for the Family Ties Relative Caregiver Program with Seneca Family of Services (Seneca) in the amount of \$240,838. All Districts.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board approve, and direct the Chairperson to sign, a renewal contract with Seneca Family of Services (Seneca) for the Family Ties Relative Caregiver Program for Fiscal Year 2015-16 in the amount of \$240,838.

## **DISCUSSION**

In 1997 Assembly Bill 1193 allocated funds to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to conduct local Kinship Support Services Programs (KSSP). These funds support community-based services to relative caregivers and the court dependent children placed in their homes and to relative caregivers of children who were at risk of court dependency or delinquency. The overall goals of KSSP are to:

- Establish a family support program that provides support services to relatives who provide homes for abused and neglected children/teens who would otherwise enter foster homes or who are at risk of dependency or delinquency.
- Ensure that children/teens maintain family ties.
- Increase a relative caregiver's capacity to obtain and maintain employment by providing supportive services, when appropriate.
- Improve outcomes of children/teens in the homes of their relatives.
- Provide services to children/teens and their relative caregivers to achieve stability, safety and permanency.

Required support services include intervention assistance aimed at maintaining the kinship family unit, transportation for medical care, education and recreational activities, referral services, counseling, tutoring/mentoring for children and teens, and collecting and reporting KSSP data to CDSS. Also included are post permanency services to relative caregivers who became the legal guardian or adoptive parent of formerly dependent children.

The County has been contracting with Seneca Family of Agencies (Seneca), previously Kinship Center, to provide services since FY 2006-2007 based on a KSSP grant from CDSS. Seneca, a non-profit corporation, began providing services in 1985 and is a leading innovator in the field of community-based and family-focused treatment services for children and families that is dedicated to being a "system of care" agency that meets the multiple needs of children and families. Services provided range from home-like residential treatment, to in-home wraparound services, to public school-based mental health services. Seneca credits its success on the agency's commitment to five core service principles:

- Unconditional Care
- Parent-Driven, Strength-Based Service Planning

- Individualized Care
- Cultural Competence
- Interagency Collaboration

Specifically, the County partners with Seneca to connect children to safe, permanent relative caregivers that will support the child or youth for life. This objective is achieved through the Family Ties program which is offered at the Kinship Center in Northern San Luis Obispo County (Templeton). Most of the children served in this program have significant physical, emotional or developmental challenges, or suffer from past trauma. The Family Ties program offers specific hands-on support and education to relative caregivers to deal with the day-to-day needs of these children and youth. With the support of Family Ties staff, relative caregivers are able to manage family transitions and access essential community resources. Seneca collaborates with the County Department of Social Services (DSS) to assist families that have illustrated a desire for support and services that will result in a reduction in foster care re-entry rates by establishing stronger family ties and supports. For more information about services offered by Seneca Family of Agencies, including kinship services, you may visit their website at <http://www.senecacenter.org>.

If approved, Seneca through the Templeton-based Kinship Center will continue to provide the Family Ties program county-wide that offers community-based and family-focused services. The program provides monetary and emotional supports to local relative caregivers and the children placed in their home. Local services include parent support groups; parent education; home visits; children's activity groups during support groups and education workshops, while also linking the social worker and other agency staff involved in the family case. The goals of all these services are to support children in relative placements by building the capacity of relative caregivers to meet their health, financial, social, emotional, and child rearing challenges.

The Family Ties program achieves the outcomes of Assembly Bill 636 (AB 636), the Child Welfare System Improvement and Accountability Act (better known as the System Improvement Plan or SIP), which focuses on continuous improvement, interagency partnerships, community involvement and public reporting outcomes. These services support the Department and County goal of ensuring all people in the community enjoy healthy, successful and productive lives, and have access to the basic necessities.

## **OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT**

The County has worked directly with Seneca to assess DSS and community needs and County Counsel has reviewed and approved the contract as to legal form and effect.

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The total cost of the contract for FY 2015-16 is \$240,838 for the term of the contract. Seneca services are funded by State Realignment 2011 funds. The cost of this contract is included in the Department's adopted budget for FY 15-16 and will require no additional General Fund contribution.

Agency	Budgeted FY 13-14	Amended FY 14-15	Budgeted FY 15-16	Notes	Funding Allocations			
					Federal	State	County	Realignment 2011
Seneca	\$240,838	\$240,838	\$240,838	Family Ties Relative Caregiver Program	0%	0%	0%	100%

## **RESULTS**

*As of March 31, 2015, a total of one hundred one (101) relative caregiver families received Family Ties services in FY 14-15. It is anticipated that the number of families served will be higher by the end of the contract year which is June 30, 2015.*

### **Fiscal Years 13-14 and 14-15**

In FY 14-15, Seneca exceeded the performance outcome of providing case management services to at least fifty (50)

relative caregivers and sixty (60) children/teens in SLO County that resulted in at least ninety percent (90%) of children remaining in a permanent placement with a relative caregiver. As of March 31, 2015, a total of one hundred one (101) families, including one hundred fifty nine (159) children/teens received case management services. The numbers include twenty one (21) new families and thirty three (33) new children/youth. Of the families served fifteen (15) cases closed for the following reasons:

- Two (2) families (2 children) were stable and no longer requested services.
- Three (3) families (3 children) returned to birth parents
- Six (6) families (11 children) moved out of county
- Two (2) families (3 youth) over the age of 18 moved out of kin giver's home
- One (1) family (2 children) disrupted by kin giver's medical/financial difficulties – ended up being DSS foster placement
- One (1) family (2 children) children were never placed in Family Ties caregiver home; no DSS involvement

A total of ninety nine percent (99%) remained in a permanent placement with a relative caregiver in FY 14-15.

Based on the final quarterly report for FY 2013-14 and received July 20, 2014, a total of one hundred (100) families, including one hundred fifty (150) children/teens received case management services. The numbers include fourteen (14) new families and eighteen (18) new children. Of the families served four (4) cases closed for the following reasons:

1. The relative caregiver adopted the two (2) children
2. One (1) child returned to birth parent(s)
3. One (1) family/child was stable and no longer needed services
4. Two (2) children moved to another relative's home to be cared for

A total of one hundred percent (100%) remained in a permanent placement with a relative caregiver in FY 13-14.

In FY 14-15, Seneca exceeded the performance outcome to produce a newsletter quarterly (total of 4). As of March 31, 2015, a total of fifteen (15) newsletters and seventeen (17) flyers/announcements were produced and distributed to families served. The Kinship Center produces monthly flyers/announcements in addition to a newsletter as they produced higher involvement with the families that they serve. It is anticipated the number of newsletters/flyers produced will be higher by the end of the contract year which is June 30, 2015.

Based on the final quarterly report for FY 2013-14 and received July 20, 2014, twenty three (23) newsletters and twenty three (23) flyers were produced and distributed.

In FY 14-15, Seneca exceeded the performance outcome of assisting at least forty (40) families with food and basic household needs (beds, furniture, oven, refrigerator, etc.) to help stabilize relative caretaker families. As of March 31, 2014, Kinship Center provided the following basic needs:

1. Distributed over three hundred thirty two (332) food boxes
2. Helped six (6) families with furniture
3. Helped twenty seven (27) families with clothing
4. Helped forty one (41) families with other needs like transportation, adoption and guardian expenses, and gas

It is anticipated that the number of supportive services provided will be higher by the end of the contract year which is June 30, 2015.

Based on the final quarterly report for FY 13-14 and received July 20, 2014, Kinship provided the following basic needs:

1. Distributed over six hundred eighty eight (688) food boxes
2. Helped thirteen (13) families with furniture
3. Helped thirty one (31) families with clothing
4. Helped eighty six (86) families with other needs like transportation, adoption and guardian expenses, and gas.

In FY 14-15, Seneca exceeded the performance outcome of organizing and facilitating at least thirty (30) caregiver

support groups [four (4) per month] for relative caregivers, with children's activity groups concurrently held. *As of March 31, 2015, a total of forty seven (47) support groups were organized and facilitated. It is anticipated that this number will be higher by the end of the contract year which is June 30, 2015.*

*Based on the final quarterly report for FY 13-14 and received July 20, 2014, Kinship provided forty seven (47) caregiver support groups.*

In FY 14-15, Seneca will organize and facilitate at least ten (10) presentations to the public about the support services of KSSP. *As of March 31, 2015, a total of eight (8) presentations were given to community partners in SLO County. Presentations included: Paso Robles Noon Time Kiwanis, Cal Poly Career Fair (2), Meet and Greet with DS Adoptions, Paso Robles Community Collaborative (2), Cambria School In-service, and SLO County Farm Bureau Woman. It is anticipated that additional presentations will be made by the end of the contract year which is June 30, 2015.*

*Based on the final quarterly report for FY 13-14 and received July 20, 2014, a total of ten (10) presentations were completed and included: Kinship Care at St. Andrews Catholic Church, Cambria Connections Board of Directors, Welcoming Children Home – resource table, DSS Interagency Meeting, Paso Robles LINK, Foster parent Academy, Children's Day in the Plaza SLO, ACT – Clinical Permanency Training (2), and Cambria Grandparent's Support Group.*

#### **FY 15-16**

Seneca will provide case management services to at least fifty (50) relative caregivers and sixty (60) children/teens in the Northern Region of SLO County.

Seneca will produce newsletters quarterly and distribute to identify caregivers and partner agencies.

Seneca will assist at least forty (40) families with food and basic household needs (beds, furniture, ovens, refrigerators, etc.) to help stabilize relative caretaker families.

Seneca will organize and facilitate at least thirty (30) caregiver support groups [four (4) per month] for relative caregivers, with children's activity groups concurrently held.

Seneca will organize and facilitate at least ten (10) presentations to the public about the support services of KSSP.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Seneca's Clerk's File Statement